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TOMORROW

## Audit implicates professor in fund misuse

By AMANDA SMITH  
Staff writer

Texas A&M University system audit accuses a professor of misusing at least \$100,000 in state funds and more than \$100,000 in personnel and equipment for his two businesses.

The system audit lodges these accusations against Dr. Robert Maggio, a professor in the forest science department and director of the Mapping Sciences Laboratory.

John Wiatt, the director of the University System Department, said investigations are currently ongoing.

"There is no time line (on the investigation)," Wiatt said. "If there is sufficient evidence found in the investigation, then we will take it to the district attorney's office."

Maggio is accused of misusing funds for his two private companies, GIS Consulting and GIS Visuals. The 11-page audit indicates that Maggio's private companies profited from a company the Mapping Sciences Laboratory conducted business through.

Maggio did not return phone calls made to his home and office Wednesday and Tuesday.

The audit finds that Maggio gained a minimum of \$124,000 from Sky Vision, a Houston company, and thousands more

from RSK Environmental L.T.D., a company based in England.

The University System Ethics Policy defines the acceptance of money from these companies as "prohibited benefits" because Maggio exercised discretion over the payments and contracts of the Mapping Sciences Laboratory.

"Maggio's private relationship with Sky Vision is problematic because it appears that the lab's research activities in the areas of aerial videography have been intermingled with and applied to private activities," according to the report.

The audit also accuses Maggio of using

specialized computer equipment and software in excess of \$100,000 for one of his private companies, RSK.

Mark Poehl, the assistant director of the system's Internal Audit Department, said the department is waiting to take action while the University Police Department continues the investigation.

Edward Hiler, the director of the Texas Agriculture Extension Service and vice chancellor and dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, received a copy of the 11-page report by the audit department.

Hiler was out of town yesterday afternoon and was not available for comment.

Maggio is the second A&M professor to be accused of misusing funds in the last year.

Dhiraj Pradhan, formerly A&M's top paid computer science professor, received a grand jury indictment in late Feb. on two counts that charge him with misappropriating state money for personal profit.

The indictment came after an A&M University System audit accused Pradhan of diverting more than \$100,000 of University funds into his private bank account for the benefit of his two private companies. Pradhan has been suspended with pay since August.

PLEASE SEE MAGGIO ON PAGE 2.

### It was 'this big'



Marcus Anderson helps his dad John with a catfish they caught together at Cy Miller Park on Wednesday afternoon.

## Morales' decision draws criticism from activists

AUSTIN (AP) — Attorney General Dan Morales' announcement that he will not appeal the Hopwood anti-affirmative action court ruling is drawing fire from civil rights leaders.

"Mr. Morales is myopic in his view of the educational opportunities available to minority children in Texas," said Cynthia Cano, staff attorney with the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF).

"In a state where decades of discrimination have blocked the advancement of Latino and African American children, it is unrealistic to expect that anything short of affirmative action will remedy the longstanding and continuing effects of that discrimination," she said.

"Texas ended its university affirmative action policies when a federal appeals court found that the University of Texas law school policy designed to increase minority enrollment discriminated against whites. That ruling was allowed to stand by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1996.

But another opportunity to appeal arose when U.S. District Judge Sam Sparks of Austin issued a final order in the case last month.

The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals had ordered Sparks to consider attorneys' fees and damages for four white plaintiffs, including Cheryl Hopwood, who had successfully sued the law school in 1992.

Morales on Tuesday rejected a request from UT chancellor to appeal that ruling.

"My office has identified no sufficient grounds on which to base an appeal seeking to reinstate race-based decision-making at Texas institutions of higher education," Morales said.

Morales, a Democrat who is not seeking reelection, also reiterated his personal belief that Texas schools should use "race-neutral criteria."

"Racial quotas, set asides and preferences do not, in my judgment, represent the values and

principles which Texans should embrace," Morales said.

Republican Gov. George W. Bush — while emphasizing his personal opposition to quotas and saying the matter is between Morales and his client — said it looked as though UT might decide to take the issue to a higher court.

"I would very much like to see a Supreme Court ruling that affects all colleges the same way. And I think if that is able to be achieved, that would be a good effect," Bush said.

UT officials have said that other states' universities continue to use racial factors in admissions, while Texas schools cannot.

Although the 5th Circuit court's ruling also applies in Louisiana and Mississippi, both those states are under previous court decisions to desegregate and officials say Hopwood's impact is less there.

MALDEF had sought to intervene in the Hopwood case, a move rejected by Judge Sparks on jurisdictional grounds. He directed MALDEF and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to file a motion with the 5th Circuit.

Al Kauffman, MALDEF's regional counsel, said it is now more important than ever that the group be allowed to intervene in the case.

"Affirmative action at our state universities presents the most important issue in higher education this decade," he said.

Morales left the door open for a private lawyer to appeal for UT, on a no-cost basis.

UT officials said they were reviewing Morales' statements and would seek clarification of some issues before responding. UT legal counsel Ray Farabee said that includes whether the university could find a lawyer to represent it for free and UT's response to any appeal by the plaintiffs of the damage awards.

## Camp seeks counselors to educate kids about A&M

By KELLY HACKWORTH  
Staff writer

Attention hard-working students with experience working with children: Camp Aggieland is looking for counselors to spread the spirit of Aggieland to children ages 6 to 12 years old this summer.

Camp Aggieland, sponsored by the Child Movement Center, a division of the Department of Health and Kinesiology, includes two one-week sessions, July 27-31 and August 3-7 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at G. Rollie White Coliseum. Counselors may work one session or both.

Melinda Grant, associate chair of the Physical Education Activity program, said the counselors are paid employees who teach the campers about Aggieland and what makes it special. The counselors

also work with the campers in activities including field trips, arts and crafts, swim-

**"The purpose of Camp Aggieland is to teach kids about Aggieland and what makes it special."**

Melinda Grant  
Camp Aggieland

ming, sports, drama, games and videos. The counselors are also in charge of implementing the activities and writing les-

son plans.

"The purpose of Camp Aggieland is to teach kids about Aggieland and what makes it special," Grant said. "The counselors teach the traditions and why they are so proud to be an Aggie."

Kinesiology and education majors are preferred but all majors are welcome. Counselor qualifications include experience working with children, enjoying children's company, willingness to work and pride in Aggieland.

Mark Dennis, a sophomore industrial distribution major and a counselor last summer, said the camp is a great way to tell the campers why he is an Aggie.

"Seeing how we can teach them and seeing their responses to the traditions is the best part of the camp," he said.

PLEASE SEE CAMP ON PAGE 2.

## Reaching out

### Student Counseling Service helps students manage stress, anxiety

By KELLY HACKWORTH  
Staff writer

With the last full week of classes coming to a close, the stress of finals looms ahead for Texas A&M students.

The Student Counseling Service, located in Henderson Hall, helps students alleviate stress and addresses time management concerns. The service is open 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday and Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. A help line is open after hours on weekdays and 24 hours a day on weekends. Students may access the help line and the Student Counseling Service by calling 845-4427.

The help line is a confidential service with a psychologist on-call.

Kris Stenberg, a psychology intern at the Student Counseling Service, said the counseling

service offers help with finals-related issues, individual and group counseling, advice on career issues, outreach programs, career interest testing and emergency assistance through counselors and workshops.

A "Student Stress Management" workshop will be held today from 4 to 5 p.m. in Henderson Hall and a "Conquering Finals" workshop will be held Monday May 4 from 5 to 6 p.m. in Henderson Hall. Students who are interested are encouraged to call 845-4427 to reserve a seat.

The Student Counseling Service also has a learning skills center, a resource library to deal with test anxiety, more effective study habits, planning study schedules and note-taking skills.

Lyle Slack, learning skills center coordinator, said students need to pace themselves

during finals, get plenty of sleep, avoid cramming before a final exam and avoid distractions.

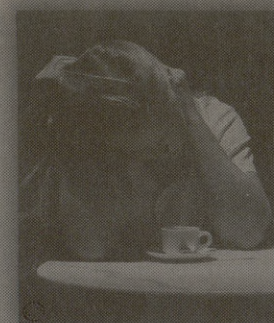
"Don't get caught up in other schedules and procrastination and pace yourself," he said.

Slack also suggests avoiding all-nighters and practicing effective time-management skills by alternating studying with periods of relaxation.

The Student Counseling Service staffs 29 student volunteers. These volunteers, called Academic and Career Educators (ACEs), aim to help students improve time-management, academic skills and general study skills.

Rick Bauer, coordinator of the ACEs program, said the ACEs educate students.

The ACEs are peer educators who consist of two groups: the academic and the career ACEs. ACEs are avail-



able from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at Henderson Hall.

The ACEs will be looking for volunteers the first two weeks of the fall semester and applications may be picked up at 107 Henderson Hall.

PLEASE SEE COUNSEL ON PAGE 2.

## McCurry: Clinton will wait to work with 'Nasty Newt'

WASHINGTON (AP) — Six months ahead of the elections — and with plenty of business to finish in the interim — President Clinton's spokesman suggested the White House could not work with House Speaker Newt Gingrich until "he comes back to his senses."

Gingrich, who pledged on Monday to use every speech from now on to push the House committee investigation of Clinton's 1996 re-election fund raising, showed no sign of easing.

"This is about law breaking. This is not about sex. This is not about gossip. This is not about soap operas," Gingrich, R-Ga., told reporters in the Capitol Wednesday.

Clinton aides and Democratic Party officials almost seemed to welcome Gingrich's refrain, counting on what they called its partisan edge to turn off voters heading into November's congressional elections.

"My guess is the American people will say, 'Knock it off' at some point," White House press secretary Mike McCurry said. The Democratic National Committee issued a press release heralding the return of "Nasty Newt."

While Clinton has said he would not



Clinton

"waste my time" responding to Gingrich, McCurry plunged in.

"We're going to have to do business with him sooner or later. And as soon as he comes back to his senses, we'll do business. He's the one that indicates that he's going to go off on this tirade. So we'll let him go," McCurry said Wednesday morning.

By midday, as Clinton sat down to talk legislative priorities with Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., and Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., McCurry moderated his tone: "We'll work with him to the degree he's willing to work with us."

But McCurry could not resist a personal poke at the weight-conscious speaker and his "political bravado."

"He needs more junk food in his diet, maybe," McCurry cracked.

Gingrich spokeswoman Christina Martin did not return calls for comment.

The exchanges represented an escalation of election-year clashes between the administration and Republican leaders over tobacco legislation, child care, abortion restrictions and education, among other issues.

Between now and a fall adjournment date, Congress must finish contentious work on a fiscal 1999 budget, the 13 regular appropriations bills and emergency spending for disaster aid and overseas American troops.

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aggielife



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Despite numerous surgeries, A&M hurler Ryan Rupe leads Aggie pitching staff.

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online

http://battalion.tamu.edu  
Hook up with state and national news through The Wire, AP's 24-hour online news service.